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COUNTRY COMMUNIST SOVIET ZONE

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Soviet Troops in Bernburg.

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EVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

DATE OF CONTENT 16 August 1951

25X1C

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 6 September 1951

REFERENCES [REDACTED] 25X1C

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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SOURCE [REDACTED]

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1. On 16 August 1951, the barracks installation on Ilberstedterstrasse, Bernburg (M 52/D 76) quartered from 1,200 to 1,400 troops who wore black-bordered black epaulets without branch-of-service insignia. The troops seen in all windows of the installation were trained soldiers most of whom wore war decorations. All of the officers and some of the EM wore the guards badge. No recruits were seen in the billeting area. Several units of about 100 soldiers were engaged in formation drill and combat training. No soldiers were seen in the streets of Bernburg. An acquaintance of source stated that the troops previously quartered in the barracks installation had left for Altengrabow about the middle of July. The installations then were occupied by the above-mentioned troops with black-bordered black epaulets.
2. The troops in the installation were engaged primarily in night exercises in the so-called Bornasche Aue on a dried-up branch of the Saale River. One garage of the installation sheltered two amphibious armored reconnaissance cars which mounted guns of 20-mm to 30-mm. Gate guards and patrols in the billeting area wore black-bordered black epaulets.

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* [REDACTED] Comment. The transfer of the unidentified engineer regiment of the GOCF from Potsdam to Bernburg in early July 1951 was previously reported. See [REDACTED]. The strength estimate of the number of troops in the barracks installation, as specified in the present report, approximately equals the strength which an engineer regiment is believed to have. The statement by source that personnel of the engineer regiment wore guards badges has never been made by sources in Potsdam who previously reported on the regiment.

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